

International aviation is governed by a series of bilateral civil aviation agreements between countries. Unlike other sectors of the economy that tend to be handled through multilateral agreements, such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, issues regarding international aviation are resolved through government-to-government negotiations. For example, if a U.S. air carrier wants to fly into and out of another country, the American government must first negotiate with the government of that country to determine the terms under which the carriers from both countries will operate. Terms of bilateral civil aviation agreements include, among other things, route assignments, capacity and frequency limitations, carrier designations, and pricing controls.

U.S. bilateral aviation agreements are executive agreements. They are negotiated and signed by representatives from the Department of State and the Department of Transportation. Unfortunately, Congress does not play any official role in the approval of bilateral aviation agreements.

As the Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Aviation, I strongly believe that Congress deserves to play a role in approving bilateral aviation agreements. As Members of Congress, we represent the businessperson, the leisure traveler, the consumer—the flying public in general. We should have the right to make sure that bilateral aviation agreements are negotiated to give U.S. consumers the most access to international aviation markets at the best price.

For this reason, I introduced the Aviation Bilateral Accountability Act, a bill to require Congressional approval of all U.S. aviation bilateral agreements. International aviation, which is based on bilateral aviation agreements, has a tremendous impact on the U.S. economy and U.S. citizens. Congress should not be excluded from agreements of such magnitude. As elected Representatives of the people, we owe it to the American consumer to look out for his or her best interests. My legislation will help Members of Congress better represent the flying public by giving Congress an integral role in the approval of U.S. bilateral aviation agreements.

The Aviation Bilateral Accountability Act will require implementing legislation for each U.S. bilateral aviation agreement, similar to the legislation required for trade agreements such as NAFTA. Under the bill, each bilateral agreement would be presented to Congress by the Secretaries involved in the negotiations. An approval resolution would then be introduced and referred for a limited number of days to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the Senate Commerce Committee. After Committee review, a straight up-or-down vote would then be required in both chambers. Finally, once the approval resolution passes both the House and the Senate, and is signed into law, then the bilateral aviation agreement would be official.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the gentleman from Oregon, Representative PETER DEFazio, for joining me as an original co-sponsor of this important legislation. In addition, I urge all my colleagues to co-sponsor the Aviation Bilateral Accountability Act.

IN HONOR OF BAYONNE YOUTH CENTER, INC.

### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 1998*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to rise today to thank and congratulate four citizens of Bayonne, New Jersey who have contributed immensely to the Bayonne Youth Center and the entire community. As it celebrates its 53rd anniversary at the HI Hat in Bayonne, The Bayonne Youth Center will honor Mrs. Susan Y. Davis, the recipient of the Sabra Jackson Award; Assemblyman Joseph V. Doria, Jr., recipient of the Humanitarian Award; Curtis Nelson, the winner of the Service Award; and Wilhemina Wilson, who is receiving the Volunteer Service Award. Also being recognized at the dinner will be the Youth of the Month and the Art and Essay contests winners.

I would like to take a moment to tell you about these four remarkable constituents. Susan Y. Davis is continually active in community service. She has served on the Bayonne Community Day Nursery Board, Midtown Community School Advisory Council, and is a member of the Bayonne Youth Center's Board of Directors. She is also active in St. Patrick's Church of Jersey City. Susan received the 1995 NAACP Community Service award.

Assembly Democratic Leader Joseph V. Doria, Jr., recipient of the Humanitarian Award, has a distinguished career in public and community service. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Liberty Health Care Systems, and has served as a board member of St. Ann's Home for the Aged. Assemblyman Doria has received more than 110 awards and citations from both public and private groups, including the Deborah Hospital Foundation's Children of the World Award and the Liberty Science Center's Legislator's Award.

Wilhemina Wilson, winner of the Volunteer Service Award, lives her life exemplifying the philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by promoting peace and goodwill towards all people. She is a faithful member of the Wallace Temple A.M.E. Zion Church and has received numerous awards for her outstanding church service. Wilson is a member of the Bayonne branch of the NAACP and has been a long-standing member and supporter of the Bayonne Youth Center.

Curtis Nelson, who was awarded the Service Award, has always made sure to give back to his community. During his work for New Jersey Transit, he received many Service Star Awards for his exemplary service. Nelson has been leader of the Neighborhood Block Association for 25 years and was the first black Commander of the F.A. Mackenzie Post of Bayonne where he raised money for many charities. He is also a member of the Pride of Bayonne Lodge No. 461.

These four extraordinary citizens who have given so much back to their community and the Bayonne Youth Center deserve our respect and admiration.

HONORING THE WEEK OF APRIL 26-MAY 2, 1998 AS NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WEEK

### HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 28, 1998*

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a few words in honor of the 14th annual National Science and Technology Week.

During this week the National Science Foundation performs its most important public outreach activities of the year; getting children excited about science and technology. This year's theme for National Science and Technology Week is "Polar Connections." It draws attention to the scientific research being performed in the Arctic and in the Antarctic.

The North and South Poles are truly unlike any place on the planet. As Chairman of the Science Committee, I've had the opportunity to travel to Antarctica to visit NSF's South Pole Station, and I can tell you that it is a remarkable place. The men and women who perform research at the South Pole work under conditions that make the winters in Wisconsin look comparatively easy. For example, in 1989 researchers from the University of Wisconsin measured temperature variations at the South Pole ranging from  $-7^{\circ}\text{F}$  to  $-117^{\circ}\text{F}$ . The South Pole receives less than a foot of snow per year, yet it is covered by an ice-sheet that is nearly two-miles thick. Geographically it is 1.5 times the size of the continental United States and a year's worth of supplies must be fit onto the one supply ship that ventures to Antarctica once a year. When the sun goes down on March 21st, it doesn't come up again until September 21st.

This week's activities were not designed simply to draw attention to the Poles, but rather to the work being performed there. The North and South Poles are unique, natural laboratories and offer matchless opportunities to study our environment.

Highlighting the combination of the important and unique research being performed at the Poles and the harsh and dangerous living conditions there is, in my opinion, a great way to make children curious about science and technology. When children are introduced to the conditions at the Poles, they may wonder: How can anything survive in such cold conditions? How do you study geology when the ground's under two miles of ice? How do you get everything you need to the South Pole? How do you fit a year's supply of goods on one ship? Getting kids to ask these questions is the goal of National Science and Technology Week. I think that "Polar Connections" is a terrific theme for National Science and Technology Week, and I am confident that this year's activities will be a great success.

I must add that just as they did last year, the National Science Foundation has once again set up its "Ask a Scientist or Engineer" phone-bank at 1-888-718-3026. The phone-bank will be open on Wednesday, April 29th, from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm. This year's e-mail address is [nstw@nsf.gov](mailto:nstw@nsf.gov). More information about National Science and Technology Week can be found at NSF's web-page at [www.nsf.gov](http://www.nsf.gov).

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my fellow Members to strongly support this program, and join